of the scheme are given in the Book titled "Foreign Trade Policy, 2004-09 updated as on 31.3.2005". The scheme is in operation for exports effected in 2004-05, onwards.

(c) Currently, applications are being received for awarding benefits under Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana and the last date for exports of 2004-05, is 31st December, 2005.

MFN status in Indo-Pak trade

960. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Pak President to New Delhi he pointed out that the tariff barriers in India were not in tandem with the Most Favoured Nation status granted by India in respect of Pak-goods;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the to-and-fro trade with Pakistan is made through Dubai; if so, the extent of the two way trade done with Pakistan through Dubai and other channels during 2004-05 and 2005-06 so far; and

(c) the steps since taken to translate the MFN status in Indo-Pak trade in absolute terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) During his meeting with Prime Minister on 17th July, 2005 in New Delhi, President Musharraf said that although India had given MFN status to Pakistan its exports to India faced difficulty due to non-tariff and para-tariff barriers.

(b) Indian imports into Pakistan are governed by a positive list of items specified by the Government of Pakistan. The bilateral trade between India and Pakistan is taking place directly. During 2004-05 goods valued at Rs. 2271 crores were exported to Pakistan and goods valued at Rs. 428 crores were imported from Pakistan. During April-May, 2005 (2005-2006) goods valued at Rs. 365 crores were exported to Pakistan and goods valued at Rs. 79 crores were imported from Pakistan. No data is available regarding bilateral trade between India and Pakistan through third countries.

(c) During the bilateral discussion with Pakistan, under the framework of Composite Dialogue, the Joint Study Group (JSG) at the level of Commerce Secretaries of both countries hold their discussions on issues

relating to expansion of bilateral trade. The JSG had its first meeting in New Delhi in February, 2005 and constituted two Working Groups—(1) on Customs Cooperation and Trade Facilitation Measures and (2) on Non Tariff Barriers. Thus, the issues of non-tariffs and para-tariffs are being looked into by this JSG.

Function of APEDA

961. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the major functions of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA);

(b) its location and branches, if any; and

(c) its contribution in promoting exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is engaged in development and promotion of exports of certain scheduled agriculture and processed food products like fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, dairy, cocoa etc. specified in the APEDA Act, 1985. To this end, it is involved in:

(i) development of industries relating to the scheduled products for export by way of providing financial assistance or otherwise;

(ii) registration of exporters of the scheduled products;

(iii) fixing of standards and specifications for export of scheduled products;

(iv) inspection of meat and meat products;

(v) improving packaging of scheduled products;

(vi) improving marketing of scheduled products out of India;

(vii) promotion of export oriented production and development of the scheduled products;

(viii) collection of statistics from the owners of factories or establishments engaged' in production, processing etc. of scheduled products and the publication of the statistics so collected;